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Soviets arrest citizen as spy for CIA

Associated Press

MOSCOW - The Soviet secret service announced yesterday the arrest of a Soviet citizen who it claimed spied for the CIA and gave military information to an American diplomat.

Jaroslav Verner, a spokesman for the US Embassy, declined comment, saying, "The embassy does not comment on intelligence matters or allegations."

The spy charge was made by the KGB in a statement distributed by the official Tass news agency.

The KGB identified the alleged spy as A.G. Tolkachev and said he was a staff member at one of Moscow's research institutes. It did not say when he was arrested.

"The spy was caught in the act during an attempt to pass on secret materials of a defense nature to Paul M. Stombaugh, an officer of the US CIA, who acted under the cover of the second secretary of the US Embassy in Moscow," the KGB statement said.

Stombaugh, who worked in the embassy's political section, was ordered out of the Soviet Union on June 14. At the time, Tass said he was caught in an espionage act that it alleged was part of a larger plot against the Soviet Union.